situation from the beginning. In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund, assistance amounting to Rs. 113.97 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund was released to the State. The other steps taken to assist the State Government include free transportation of drinking water and fodder by the Railways, allocation of 5.68 lakh MTs of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme, allocation of 2.53 lakh MTs of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line rates and relaxation of norms not only with regard to release of funds under schemes implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply but also for allowing funds for renovation, restoration, replacement and rejuvenation of the existing/defunct water supply schemes.

Central assistance for floods in Kerala

2135. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Kerala regarding Central assistance for floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether Government have any plan to provide assistance to agricultural labourers who lost their employment due to natural calamities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala had submitted a Memorandum indicating a loss of about Rs.552 crore in the wake of heavy rains & floods during South-west Monsoon 2001 and sought immediate special Central assistance to tackle the situation. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team had recently visited the State for assessment of the situation. Second instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund(CRF) for 2001-02 amounting to Rs.26.48

crore has been released to the State Government in advance for undertaking immediate measures.

(d) and (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary meausres in this regard. An allocation 5,000 MTs of foodgrains has been made to the State under Food for Work Programme, with a view to generate additional employment.

Hybrid varieties of grapes and citrus

2136. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the post harvest losses for grapes and citrus in 2000-2001 as compared to the preceding year;

(b) the hybrid varieties of fruits evolved in 2000-2001; and

(c) whether ICAR has taken up any form of research work with Universities/Institutions abroad for development of hybrid variety of fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No information is available regarding post harvest losses for grapes and citrus in the year 2000-2001 as compared to the preceding year.

(b) In fruits, only one hybrid "Amlidana" has been evolved in pomegranate during 2000-2001.

(c) No. Sir.

Merger of agricultural schemes

2137. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government propose to merge or prune the existing schemes in Agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the schemes which Government are contemplating of merging or weeding out; and

(c) the reasons for such a proposal?